(b) Government consider that the time and labour involved in collecting the answer will not be commensurate with the public purpose served thereby.

(c) Yes.

(d) The works of the P. W. Department are subject to seasonal conditions and it is found in practice that a comparatively large number of bills in Karkadagam is inevitable.

Leave—grant of—Mr. D. M. Raju, late Senior Driver, Head Works.

209. Mr. George Parakkal.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) how long Mr. D. M. Raju (late Senior Driver, Head Works) has been on leave;

(b) what was the nature of the leave granted and when did he join duty;

(c) if he was on sick leave, had he produced medical certificate;

(d) was he examined by the Chief Medical Officer, as required by the Code, before he was allowed to join duty; and if so, will a copy of that certificate from the Chief Medical Officer placed on the table?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.— (a) He was on leave from 30th Chingam 1109 to 23rd Kanni 1111.

(b) Privilege leave for one month and 24 days, leave on medical certificate for 1½ years and leave on loss of pay for the remaining period.

(c) He had produced medical certificate for the grant of sick leave.

(d) A medical examination by the Chief Medical Officer was not necessary in this case.

Promotions in the Mechanical Department—consideration of claims of men in service.

210. Mr. George Parakkal.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) when vacancies occur in Mechanical Department, are the services of those already working taken to consideration in giving promotion to permanent posts;

(b) were the claims of Foreman K. L. Poulose and Dredger Driver Elias, taken to consideration in filling up the permanent vacancy consequent to the promotion of D. M. Raju, as Water Works Supervisor?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.— (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

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